

Preliminary Summary of Groundwater Springs Data

By Jake Macholl

Hydrogeologist, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Number of known springs in Wisconsin	10,810
Number of known springs <i>with flow data</i>	7,455
Number of springs with flow \geq 1 cubic foot per second*	290
Protected Springs	
Number of springs located in: Federal Forests	11
National Forests	515
WDNR Managed Lands	581
County Forests	161
Springs within 1200' buffer of trout streams and O/ERW	3,069
TOTAL springs on public lands and within O/ERW and trout stream areas	3,643**
Springs outside above lands, protected due to flow \geq 1cfs*	104
TOTAL number of springs protected under 03Act310	3,747

*No data on Q80 (amount of flow 80 percent of the time).

**The total springs in these categories don't add up to 4337 because of criteria overlap. *For example:* a spring that lies in a trout stream buffer *and* the stream is located in WDNR managed land is counted in both categories.

Largest Known Springs in Wisconsin			
Number	Approximate Discharge (cfs)	County	Name
1	22	Waushara	Mecan Springs
2	13	Bayfield	Sajdek Spring
3	11	Washburn	Little Mackey Spring
4	10.5	Grant	Unnamed
5	10	Washburn	Crystal Brook Spring
6	7.7	Bayfield	Delta Spring
7	7.7	Washburn	Tozer Spring
8	6.5	Washburn	Unnamed
9	6.5	Bayfield	Miller Creek Spring
10	6.5	Douglas	McDouglas Spring

Data from WI Conservation Department Survey, 1956-1968 & WDNR Surface Water Inventories, 1961-1985.

Statistics

- Grant County has both the most springs, 2276, and the highest concentration of springs, 1.9 per square mile.
- Taylor, Chippewa, Calumet, and Winnebago Counties have no known springs.
- Average discharge of known springs in Wisconsin is 0.2 cfs.

